(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such situation occurring frequently in the State;

(d) whether the Government are also aware of the fact that the people suffering from starvation are not getting full assistance provided by the Central Government meant for drought/starvation;

(e) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Even though Government of Orissa have reported drought conditions in varying degrees in many parts of the State, due to deficient rainfall during South West Monsoon, 1996, it has not reported any instance of death due to starvation.

(c) As the State depends on rainfall for its crop production, a poor monsoon results in failure of crops and resultant drought conditions.

(d) No, Sir. Government of India is regularly monitoring and reviewing implementation of these programmes to achieve the desired level of targeting.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Uniform Procurement Policy

731. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the absence of Uniform Procurement Policy in the country different varieties of agroproducts have been kept under different categories in different States;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether certain State Governments have drawn attention of the Union Government towards this;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Government is following a uniform procurement policy. The Minimum Support Prices fixed for major agricultural commodities are uniformly applicable through-out the country. The prescribed specifications for procurement of foodgrains at Minimum Support Prices are also unifrom all over the country.

(c) to (e). A representation had been received from Punjab Government about PR - 106 variety of paddy being accepted as Fine instead of Superfine. It has been clarified that although this variety of paddy is categorised as Superfine, in some cases, it may be accepted as Fine if the admixture of lower groups of paddy was higher than the prescribed limit.

[English]

Smuggling of Arms

732. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantum of smuggled arms has been seized during the month of September, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons arrested so far; and

(c) the action being taken to stop smuggling of arms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wheat Production

733. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Agriculture scientists have worked out a comprehensive plan to raise wheat production in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring more land under wheat production and to raise production thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Main thrust points to raise wheat production during *rabi* 1996-97 are :

1. Greater emphasis on timely sowing (mid November) in all regions to enhance input use efficiency and achieve high productivity.
2. Replacement of old disease susceptible varieties with new improved ones. Attempts would be made to replace HD 2329 with PBW 343, WH 542 and UP 2338 in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh; HUW 234, Sonalika and HUW 206 with Sonali, K 8804, Vishali, K 9006 and K 8962 in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.